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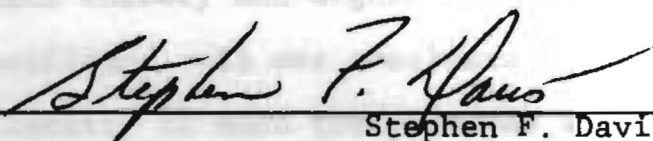
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Title: EGO IDENTITY OF UNIVERSITY MALES AND FEMALES AS

A FUNCTION OF DEATH ANXIETY AND LEVEL OF SELF-ESTEEM

Abstract approved:


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Ego identity is measured by the presence of a crisis and/or commitment to vocational choice, and political and religious ideology. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between ego-identity status and death anxiety and self-esteem. A second purpose was to confirm the positive relationship of femininity and death anxiety. Undergraduate students, $N= 423$, from Introductory Psychology, Developmental, and Applied Psychology classes were used as subjects. There were 157 male and 266 female subjects. Subjects were administered all test materials during regular class periods. Ego-identity statuses were formed according to responses to the Objective Measure of Ego-Identity Status (OM-EIS). Death anxiety was measured by the Death Anxiety Scale and self-esteem was measured by the Texas Social

Behavior Inventory, Form A. Analyses of variance for un-weighted means of independent groups were performed in a 2 X 4 factorial design and the Newman-Keuls procedure was used to investigate significant interactions. Significant differences were found between both gender and status on death anxiety and self-esteem measures, at both $p < .05$ and $p < .01$. Male identity achievers were found to have the lowest death anxiety and highest self-esteem scores, $p < .01$ and $p < .05$, respectively. Proposed was the consideration of diffusion-moratoriums as a distinct status. The hypothesis that males would have lower death anxiety and higher self-esteem scores than females was confirmed. It was concluded that the OM-EIS is measuring ego identity in much the same way as Marcia's (1966) Incomplete Sentence Interview.

EGO IDENTITY OF UNIVERSITY MALES
AND FEMALES AS A FUNCTION OF DEATH ANXIETY
AND LEVEL OF SELF-ESTEEM

A Thesis
Presented to
the Department of Psychology
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In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science

by
David L. Elsbury
May, 1982

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The twentieth century brought the First World War and many changes associated with the automation of society. Another change that was to have just as dramatic an effect was the arrival of Freudian psychology to the Western Hemisphere through Sigmund Freud's first book, The Interpretation of Dreams (1900) and a subsequent visit to the United States at the invitation of G. Stanley Hall to attend the conference at Clark University in 1909. According to Freud, the ego was the second part of a three-part personality structure which differentiated itself from the id, the basic part, because of the need of the individual to operate within the objective world of reality. Personalities were considered to be driven by the desires of an insatiable id, which cannot tolerate any uncomfortable state, and restricted by an unrelenting superego, the embodiment of our parental and societal values. The personality was powered by the libidinal desires of the id. Development of the personality, according to Freud, centered around the importance of the first few years of life and "is defined in terms of the modes of reaction to a particular zone of the body," i.e., oral, anal, phallic, latency, and genital (Hall & Lindzey, 1978).

Followers of Freud retained many of these main tenets of orthodox psychoanalytic theory, but changed others by adding

their own professional bias. One main difference evident in these followers of Freud was their emphasis on the environment and its shaping force on the development of the personality. Hall and Lindzey (1978) point out that four people took psychoanalytic theory and gave it a social-psychological look; they are, Alfred Adler, Karen Horney, Erich Fromm, and Harry Stack Sullivan. These theorists reacted to the new social sciences which claimed that the individual was chiefly a product of the society, or environment, in which he or she lives.

Consonant with the emphasis of social influence on psychoanalytic psychology was the development of a post-Freudian theory of personality by Erik Erikson. It emphasized the importance of the ego within the personality and the interaction with society during its development. Erikson is so closely associated with the ego that his theory is referred to as "Ego Psychology" and his states of ego development are called the stages of psychosocial development. Movement through the eight stages of ego development was theorized by Erikson to operate on the epigenetic principle, i.e., each stage rises out of the groundwork prepared by the previous stage. Each stage is characterized by a critical period that, for adaptive and healthy development to occur, must be resolved in a positive fashion. Ego development and crisis resolution were to be important concepts for the later development of ego psychology.

The measurement of Erikson's (1956, 1963) formulation of ego development by crisis resolution, concentrating on the

stage of "ego identity versus role diffusion," was operationalized by James Marcia (1964, 1966). Marcia's semistructured Identity Status Interview (ISI) provided the measure of ego identity and categorized an individual as occupying one of four statuses: They are ego diffusion, foreclosure, moratorium, and identity achievement. Occupation of a specific ego-identity status is determined by the presence or absence of a crisis and/or commitment on the three dimensions -- occupational choice, religious and political ideology. For example, a person with no professed commitment who has not experienced a crisis would be classified as ego diffused. According to Adams, Shea, and Fitch (1979) and Rest (1975), the ISI takes too much time to administer and hence limits sample size in experiments. Also, it may be somewhat error prone or potentially biased because of its subjective nature. That is to say, status is determined by the rating of the ISI by impartial judges and it has been estimated that problems, which have arisen during the follow-up of subjects from previous studies, could be due to judge error (Marcia, 1967). In response to this, a new, more objective instrument, the Objective Measure of Ego-Identity Status scale (OM-EIS), was developed by Adams et al. (1979) to measure ego identity. The OM-EIS produces the same four statuses of ego identity formulated by Marcia but instead utilizes 24 statements which subjects rate on a Likert-like scale. Results were reported which indicated the ability of the OM-EIS to differentiate between the four statuses reliably. Also, internal consistency alpha ratings of 0.67 to 0.76 were reported which were

interpreted as indicating significant relatedness between the statuses, as measured by the OM-EIS (Adams et al., 1979).

The initial description of the identity statuses was developed by Marcia (1966) from the theoretical writings of Erikson about the psychosocial stage of ego identity versus role diffusion and research with college males. The characteristics are as follows: Ego-diffused individuals are characterized by no professed commitment on any of the three dimensions and may or may not have experienced a crisis. This is the lowest status. Those who have made a commitment but in the absence of a crisis are categorized as foreclosure. The commitment is thought to be that of other people rather than of the individual. People in the moratorium status are in a "perceived state of crisis" and are searching for commitment. Identity-achieved individuals are in the highest state of ego development and the person is considered to have experienced a crisis and indicates a strong personal commitment on the three dimensions. The ordinal position of foreclosure and moratorium is somewhat unclear though many would state that moratoriums are higher because they are moving toward identity achievement.

Even before the ego identity statuses were formulated, researchers were investigating the characteristics of individuals who had achieved ego identity according to Erikson's theoretical guidelines. The work of Bronson (1959) and Block (1961) was summarized as investigating a "variability-stability dimension of self-concept, and overall adjustment. In general, subjects who have achieved ego identity seem

less confused in self-definition and are freer from anxiety" (Marcia, 1966, p. 552). On the whole, this generalization has been upheld by subsequent research in ego identity. From the initial formulations and research of Marcia has emerged a concentration on a variety of subject variables to increase what is known about the different statuses. Two of those variables are the focus of this study, i.e., anxiety and self-esteem. A variety of tools have been used to quantify these subject variables. What follows is a review of the research relevant to the validation of the identity statuses according to anxiety and self-esteem.

Moratoriums, due to their perceived state of crisis, are the most anxious status and the foreclosures are generally considered to be the least anxious (Marcia, 1967). These assertions have been supported by later research, e.g., Schenkel (1975) and Schenkel and Marcia (1972) in their work with college women. Toder and Marcia (1973) concluded that moratoriums and diffusions had significantly higher negative affect scores than identity achievers and foreclosures. This study utilized the Multiple Affect Adjective Check List, developed by Zuckerman (1960), as a measurement of anxiety. In the literature, Marcia and Friedman (1970) reported one exception to the generalization that moratoriums have significantly higher anxiety scores as compared to foreclosure and identity-achieved individuals. In their study of college females, the authors hypothesized that the moratorium's anxiety not being significant "may have been due to the statistically overriding effects of high anxiety experienced

by the diffusions" (p. 261).

Other research with instruments which are related to anxiety has been done to further validate the identity statuses. The repression-sensitization scale, by Byrne (1961), which characterizes a person according to the type of defensive behaviors he utilizes, i.e., avoidance, denial and repression versus intellectualization and obsessional behaviors respectively, was compared to a death anxiety scale by Tolor and Reznikoff (1967). They found that subjects with sensitization tendencies have significantly greater overt death anxiety as compared with subjects with repressor tendencies. Tying this line of research with identity status, Mahler (1969) found that moratoriums scored in the sensitizer direction and foreclosures to score in the repressor direction, which is consistent with ego-identity research. Utilizing the prisoner's dilemma game and subjects identified as a member of one of the ego statuses, Podd, Marcia, and Rubin (1970) interpreted the unusually long response latencies of moratoriums as indicative of high anxiety. The adjustment of late adolescent males was the subject of a study by Oshman and Manosevitz (1974) who administered the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) to 78 college males. Moratorium subjects scored the highest on all scales while identity achievers scored the lowest on eight of the ten clinical scales. As a group, moratoriums supported theoretical expectations of Oshman and Manosevitz and they reported that the analysis of the Hy-Pt scales "suggests that they [moratoriums] are sensitizers rather than repressors."

Lastly, Aronow, Rauchway, Peller, and De Vito (1980) and Stark and Traxler (1974) found a negative relationship between ego identity and anxiety-scale scores.

In contrast to the negative relationship found between ego identity and anxiety measures is the positive relationship of ego identity and self-esteem, i.e., generally the higher ego identity status a person occupies, the higher his level of self-esteem. Marcia (1966) reported a significant ($p < .01$) positive relationship between scores used to determine identity status and the initial self-esteem measure. However, he did not find any significant differences between statuses according to self-esteem. The Self-Esteem Questionnaire (SEQ), developed by DeCharms and Rosenbaum (1960), was used to measure the subjects' self-esteem. It is a "20-item test ... on which a subject indicates his degree of endorsement of statements concerning general feelings of confidence and worthiness" (Marcia, 1966, p. 554). Also, high identity college males rated themselves more positively in an ambiguous social situation than did low-identity males (Cabin, 1966). Though not using a self-esteem measure similar to the other research of self-esteem and identity status previously cited, the above study seems to be generally consistent with the outcome of that research. Using college women as subjects, Schenkel and Marcia (1972) found that identity achievers scored the highest on a self-esteem scale.

Slightly different results have been reported regarding the relationship of identity status and self-esteem. Marcia and Friedman (1970) found that the college women of their

sample, who were identified as foreclosures, had the highest self-esteem scores and identity achievers had the lowest. The authors conjectured that a possible reason for these disparate results was the parental support the girls received for accepting the values the parents had intended; therefore, they experienced a greater sense of self-esteem. Different results were reported when, in a study by Breuer (1973), the identity achievers and moratoriums obtained higher self-esteem scores than did foreclosures and ego-diffused subjects. It is unclear why the moratoriums and foreclosures seem to be transposed in their positions within the above study. However, overall it appears that the relationship between self-esteem and the identity statuses is not as certain as the negative relationship between ego identity and anxiety.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between the ego-identity statuses, as formed by the OM-EIS, and death anxiety and self-esteem. A second purpose of the study was to confirm the positive relationship of femininity and death anxiety. Anxiety was measured by the Death Anxiety Scale (DAS), developed by Templer (1970). The DAS is a 15-item true-false scale that has a test-retest reliability of .83 (Templer, 1970). It was further demonstrated that the DAS is positively and significantly correlated with the Boyar's Fear of Death Scale ($r = .74$, $p < .01$), the Welsh Anxiety Scale ($r = .36$, $p < .01$). Self-esteem was measured by the Texas Social Behavior Inventory (TSBI), Form A, developed by Helmreich and Stapp (1974), which is a 16-item, Likert-type scale designed to provide "an objective measure of self-esteem or

social competence."

Based on the writings of Marcia (1966) and the literature previously cited, the following definitions and hypotheses are proposed: Identity achievers will have the highest self-esteem and the lowest death-anxiety scores, but will not be significantly different from the foreclosures' scores. Moratoriums and diffusions will have the lowest self-esteem scores and highest death-anxiety scores. Overall, it is further proposed that males will have significantly lower death-anxiety scores than females. This finding would be consistent with the studies of Davis, Martin, Wilee, and Voorhees (1978), Koob and Davis (1977), and Templer (1974). Lastly, it is proposed that there will be a negative relationship between self-esteem and death anxiety, as was reported by Arown et al. (1980), Davis et al. (1978), and Moses (Note 1).

CHAPTER 2

METHOD

Subjects

The subjects were student volunteers from Introductory Psychology, Applied Psychology, and Developmental Psychology classes at Emporia State University. The total number of subjects was $N= 423$, $n= 157$ for males and $n= 266$ for females. Students participating in the study received points toward their class grade by the permission of the instructor. Treatment of the participants in this study was in accordance with the ethical principles established by the American Psychological Association for the conduct of research with human participants, i.e., all subjects were debriefed according to the purpose and results of the study after it was completed.

Apparatus

All testing instruments were presented in a single questionnaire booklet which was devoid of any distinguishing marks that might identify the purpose of the test. Subjects were grouped into ego-identity statuses according to responses to the OM-EIS. The OM-EIS scale consists of 24 Likert-like items with six items reflecting each of the four statuses. Each series of six items includes statements on occupation, religion, and politics. Subjects were asked to rate each item according to how much they agreed or disagreed with it. Items were presented in a random arrangement across the four

statuses and three content areas.

Two instruments were used to measure subject characteristics, i.e., the Death Anxiety Scale by Templer (1970) and the Texas Social Behavior Inventory, Form A, by Helmreich and Stapp (1974).

Procedure

The administration of all test materials took place during each subject's class period. All materials were presented during the same administration to each subject; the administration of the complete battery of tests required from twenty to forty minutes. Questionnaires were administered by undergraduate research assistants and two graduate students in clinical psychology. All subjects were encouraged to participate but were allowed to decline participation if they desired. Participants were instructed that all material collected was to be considered confidential. They also were encouraged to work quickly in order to finish all test materials during class time. For investigative purposes, subjects were grouped into ego-identity statuses according to their responses to the OM-EIS. Comparisons were made to determine if any significant relationships existed between identity status and death anxiety and self-esteem. In addition, comparisons of results according to gender were performed to determine if any significant relationships exists between the dependent measures and gender.

CHAPTER 3

RESULTS

Based upon published OM-EIS cut-off means (Adams et al., 1979) the subjects in the present study were grouped into the various statuses. Subjects within each status were also subdivided by gender. The DAS and TSBI scores for each subject were also calculated. Mean DAS and TSBI scores were independently computed for Gender X Status cells having at least ten subjects. As an equal number of subjects did not exist in each cell, the analysis of variance for unweighted means was performed on this data. Post hoc comparisons were performed with the Newman-Keuls procedure, if warranted. According to the minimum cell number restriction, the following statuses were included in the aforementioned analysis: ego diffusion, moratorium, identity achieved, and diffusion-moratorium. The number of subjects in each cell is shown in Table 1 in the Appendix. As it is a transition status, (i.e., when a subject scores significantly on two or more statuses), it is interesting to note the large number of subjects in the diffusion-moratorium status. Likewise, it is interesting to note that the ten-subject-per-cell requirement precluded the foreclosure status from statistical analysis.

Mean DAS scores for male and female subjects according to the four analyzed ego-identity statuses are shown in

Table 2. The analysis of DAS scores indicates that both main effects were significant ($p < .01$); Gender, $F(1,361) = 7.12$, and Status, $F(3,361) = 4.66$. Also, the Gender X Status interaction was significant, $F(3,361) = 2.78$, $p < .05$. Post hoc comparisons performed with the Newman-Keuls procedure produced the following results: According to status, the death anxiety scores for identity-achieved subjects were significantly ($p < .05$) lower than moratorium and diffusion subjects. However, diffusion subjects were not significantly different from moratorium subjects. Both diffusion and moratorium subjects had significantly ($p < .05$) lower death anxiety scores than did the diffusion-moratorium transition status subjects. Identity-achieved subjects displayed significantly ($p < .01$) lower death anxiety scores than did the diffusion-moratorium subjects.

From the standpoint of gender, the death anxiety scores of males were significantly lower than females at the moratorium ($p < .05$), identity achieved ($p < .01$), and diffusion-moratorium ($p < .05$) statuses. Males did not differ significantly from females at the diffusion status. The results from the comparison of ego-identity statuses within each gender were as follows: For males, the death anxiety scores of diffusion subjects were not significantly different from those of moratorium subjects, but both, in turn, were significantly greater ($p < .05$) than those of identity-achieved subjects. Males in the diffusion-moratorium transition status had significantly ($p < .01$) higher death anxiety scores

than did identity-achieved subjects. No significant difference was found between male diffusion and diffusion-moratorium subjects or between male moratorium and diffusion-moratorium subjects. For female subjects, the death anxiety scores of individuals in diffusion, moratorium, and identity achievement statuses did not differ, but were significantly ($p < .01$) lower than the scores of diffusion-moratorium subjects.

Mean TSBI scores are shown in Table 3. The unweighted means analysis of this data indicated that the main effect for Gender was not significant, $F(1,361) = 2.33$, $p > .05$. However, the main effect for Status was found to be significant, $F(3,361) = 2.96$, $p < .05$. Also, the Gender X Status interaction proved to be significant, $F(3,361) = 3.41$, $p < .05$. As with the DAS data, the Newman-Keuls procedure was used to make specific comparisons. Taking the gender of the subject into account, it was found that the self-esteem scores of male and female subjects were not significantly different at the diffusion status. However, moratorium and identity-achieved males had significantly ($p < .05$) higher self-esteem scores than did the females in the statuses. However, diffusion-moratorium females had significantly ($p < .05$) higher self-esteem scores than did males. The comparisons of the various statuses, disregarding gender, indicated that self-esteem scores of moratorium and diffusion-moratorium subjects did not differ but were significantly ($p < .05$) lower than diffusion and identity-achieved subjects.

Comparisons of ego-identity statuses within gender

resulted in the following results: The TSBI scores of diffusion males did not differ from those of moratorium males. Diffusion-moratorium males scored significantly ($p < .05$) lower than did diffusion and moratorium males. In turn, the diffusion and moratorium males scored significantly ($p < .01$) lower than did identity-achieved males. The TSBI scores of the female diffusion, identity-achieved, and diffusion-moratorium subjects did not differ, but were significantly ($p < .05$) higher than the TSBI scores of the female moratorium subjects.

Due to the minimum-number-per-cell restriction, some data that may represent important relationships were not included in the statistical analysis. This category contains subjects who were labeled as foreclosure, diffusion-foreclosure, and diffusion-foreclosure-moratorium. The latter two statuses represent transition statuses. Table 4 contains mean DAS and TSBI scores for male and female subjects in these statuses. Though no statistical analyses were conducted, comparisons of these means to the others produced in the present study are interesting. For example, the DAS scores for diffusion-foreclosure and diffusion-foreclosure-moratorium subject are greater than the highest DAS score reported in Table 2. Also, DAS score for the foreclosure subjects was greater than all DAS scores in Table 2, with the exception of the score of the female diffusion-moratorium subjects. The TSBI scores for males from this group of nonanalyzed statuses are lower than all the scores reported for males in Table 3. Though not as consistent, the

TSBI scores for females in the nonanalyzed statuses are higher than those females in Table 3, with the exception of the diffusion-foreclosure-moratorium females.

Those statuses presented in Table 3 were considered to occur rarely in the present study. However, there are additional transition statuses which occurred so rarely that no means were computed for them. These extremely rare statuses for males were diffusion-achieved, $n=2$, moratorium-achieved, $n=1$, diffusion-moratorium-achieved, $n=1$. For females the transitions are diffusion-achieved, $n=1$, moratorium-achieved, $n=2$, diffusion-foreclosure-achieved, $n=1$, diffusion-foreclosure X moratorium-achieved, $n=1$, and foreclosure-moratorium-achieved, $n=1$.

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

A review of the statistical analyses suggests that death anxiety appears to discriminate between statuses better than self-esteem. This condition is in agreement with the generalization that the relationship between self-esteem and the identity statuses is not as certain as the negative relationship between anxiety and ego-identity status.

As several authors in the field of ego identity, e.g., Bourne (1978), Marcia (1967), Marcia and Friedman (1970), Orlofsky (1977), and Schenkel and Marica (1972) have spoken of sex differences in the various identity statuses, this section will deal with such differences in the present data. It is interesting to note that Bourne (1978) indicates that:

Among college men, identity-achiever and moratorium subjects frequently perform differently (or better) than foreclosure and diffusion subjects on such ego-developmental dimensions as concept attainment under stress, [and] manipulability of self-esteem

On the other hand, women subjects show a tendency for identity achievers and foreclosures to behave as a group distinct from moratoriums and diffusions.

(p. 244)

On the basis of this information, some researchers have also

concluded that foreclosure is more adaptive for women than for men.

Death Anxiety

Males. The DAS responses of the present sample of males support the general theoretical position that the higher the ego-identity development, the lower the anxiety score. Therefore, the results do not confirm the conclusions of Marcia (1967) that foreclosure subjects scored lowest on measure of anxiety. The results do partially confirm the results of Mahler (1969) and Podd et al. (1970) that diffusion and moratorium subjects are more anxious than identity-achieved and foreclosure subjects. However, what does appear to pose a dilemma in explaining the death anxiety scores of males according to theory is that in the present study male diffusion subjects were not significantly different from moratorium subjects. Marcia (1966, 1967) theorizes that diffused subjects are probably the most disturbed and are typified by more apathy and lack of achievement than anxiety. He also goes ahead to predict that moratorium subjects are the most anxious because of their perceived state of crisis. The reason for this disparity of theory and data is not clear but one possibility is that the OM-EIS does not adequately differentiate between these two statuses. Another possible reason is that the group of individuals being used as subjects, i.e., late adolescents and college-aged males and females, have changed since the time of Marcia's (1966) formulation of ego-identity status or the time of subsequent studies in the early 1970's. Continued research may be needed in

the area of the relationship between death anxiety and these two identity statuses.

An extensive review of the research on ego identity following Marcia's initial article reveals little, if any, mention of the transition statuses. For example, one article that does make mention of transitions is Adams et al. (1979). The transition statuses mentioned are reported to have been collapsed into the lowest ranked status. An example would be including someone from a diffusion-foreclosure transition in the diffusion status. Though the procedure may simplify statistical analysis, there is a possibility that valuable information regarding a distinct group(s) of subjects is being lost. Such appears to be the case with the diffusion-moratorium status from this project. Hence, it is proposed that future research regarding ego identity separately consider transition statuses.

The DAS means for diffusion and moratorium males are relatively consistent with a comparable group of adolescent males whose mean was 5.72 (Templer, 1971, p. 174). Identity-achieved males had a mean DAS score lower than both retired males (\bar{x} = 4.15; Templer & Ruff, 1971), and male military officers currently on duty (\bar{x} = 4.50; Koob & Davis, 1977). Both groups would most likely be considered to be at a different point in their identity development than college males.

It was predicted that males would score lower than females on the death anxiety measure according to the previous research of Davis et al. (1978), Koob and Davis (1977), and

Templer (1974). As already noted, this prediction was confirmed for moratorium, diffusion-moratorium, and identity-achieved subjects.

Females. No differences were found between the mean DAS scores of females in the typical statuses. This finding does not support the findings of Schenkel (1975) and Schenkel and Marcia (1972) that moratoriums are the most anxious statuses for women. However, it is supportive of Marcia and Friedman's (1970) conclusion that for females moratoriums are not significantly different from other statuses on the anxiety dimension. However, the agreement between the results of Marcia and Friedman and those of the present study may not have occurred for the same reason. Marcia and Friedman hypothesized that high-anxiety diffusions may have effected the statistical significance of moratoriums. In the present study, moratoriums were not significantly different from diffusions or identity achiever, hence something else could be operating to produce this lack of significance.

As was found in the male sample, the female diffusion-moratorium subjects represent a statistically distinct group of individuals. The inclusion of these individuals into the diffusion status could have significantly altered the characteristics of that status. Instead, by leaving the groups intact, a status significantly different from diffusion, moratorium, and identity achievement is formed. It appears that for both sexes this status merits closer scrutiny and attention. The death-anxiety means of female subjects in

diffusion, moratorium, and identity-achieved statuses are relatively consistent with comparable groups of female Western Kentucky University undergraduate and female adolescents who earned means of 6.66 and 6.84, respectively. On the other hand, diffusion-moratorium subjects produced the highest DAS score. It is interesting to note that this score is higher than female heterogeneous psychiatric patients who had a mean of 7.15, but lower than the mean of 11.62 scored by highly death-anxious psychiatric patients (Templer & Ruff, 1971).

Self-Esteem

General ego-identity theory states that there is a positive relationship between ego-identity and self-esteem. According to status, a result of the present study which is consistent with the positive relationship of ego-identity status and self-esteem is the identity-achieved subjects scoring highest ($p < .05$) on the self-esteem measure. However, this is where the agreement of the present data with general theory ceases.

Males. Identity achievers had the most significant difference according to self-esteem, which is consonant with the findings of Cabin's (1966) study with high-identity, college males and Breuer's (1973) work with late adolescent males. However, here again, the similarity with previous work stops. As was found with death anxiety for males, diffusion and moratorium subjects scored equally on the self-esteem measure but significantly lower than identity-achieved subjects. From these results it could be hypothesized that

male identity-achieved subjects are better adjusted than diffusion and moratorium subjects, but that the latter two are not different from each other. Also, males appear to be better adjusted than females, as judged by the measures of self-esteem, at both identity-achievement and moratorium statuses. It would seem, though, that conclusions like this would not agree with the theoretical difference between the "apathetic" diffusion versus the "identity-seeking and in crisis" moratorium. Unfortunately, these results do not appear to reduce the confusion in the relationship between identity status and self-esteem any further.

Diffusion-moratorium males' TSBI scores take a puzzling turn when compared to those of females in the same transition. Females displayed significantly higher TSBI scores than did males and, therefore, would appear to be better adjusted. However, comparisons from the present study of death-anxiety scores according to gender has males better adjusted than females. It is unclear at this time how to interpret this change in relationship between the two dependent measures. Possibly, other factors are operating which were not for by death anxiety and/or self-esteem.

Females. The self-esteem scores of the females present a less heterogeneous pattern than those of the males. As already noted, the only significant difference noted was between diffusion, identity-achieved, diffusion-moratorium; and moratorium subjects. Also, the self-esteem measures for the various statuses do not agree with the findings of previous research. For example, Schenkel and Marcia (1972)

found that identity-achieved subjects scored highest on self-esteem measures. Marcia and Friedman (1970) found that foreclosed female college students scored highest, as compared to identity-achieved subjects who scored lowest, on a measure of self-esteem.

In conclusion, it would seem fitting to summarize those results which appear to contribute information to the body of literature regarding ego-identity status. First, and possibly foremost, is the finding of what appears to be a distinct group of individuals -- diffusion-moratoriums. These individuals, part of a larger group of transition subjects, constitute a substantial percentage of this study's sample. But beyond the fact that they are numerous, DAS and TSBI scores indicate that they appear to be a group which functions differently from previously developed statuses. In addition, the OM-EIS aids in the clear identification of transition statuses, which indicates its use in the study of such statuses. Second, the present study confirms the position of identity-achievement subjects as being least anxious and having the highest self-esteem. However, it does not confirm the relationship of other statuses to death anxiety and self-esteem as established through previous research. Third is the question regarding the difference between the sexes and the adaptability of statuses for females versus males. Here, the relationship of anxiety and gender was replicated in that males had significantly lower death anxiety scores than females at identity-achieved, moratorium, and diffusion-moratorium statuses. Males appeared to be better

adjusted at identity-achieved and moratorium statuses in that they were lower death anxious and had higher self-esteem. However, conclusions regarding the adaptability of the foreclosure status for females versus identity achievement are not possible since foreclosure subjects did not appear in adequate numbers. Lastly, it appears that the OM-EIS is identifying ego-identity statuses for males in much the same way as the Marcia (1966) ISI, according to the dimensions of death anxiety and self-esteem. This is not the case for females because their statuses were not significantly different according to death anxiety and self-esteem. Whether this difference is due to the OM-EIS or the dependent measures is not discernable from this data.

Affective cor-

State Def-

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Cell

	State
Division	Historical
	60
	117

Total number APPENDIX: TABLES

Table 1

Number of Subjects in each Gender by Status Cell

Gender	Status			
	Diffusion	Moratorium	Achieved	Diff.-Morat.
Males	38	48	12	33
Females	47	117	31	43

Note. Total number = 369

Table 2

Mean Death Anxiety Scale Scores

Gender	Status			
	Diffusion	Moratorium	Achieved	Diff.-Morat.
Males	5.71	5.52	4.00	6.58
Females	6.46	6.85	6.03	8.30
Avg.	6.08	6.18	5.01	7.44

Note. Maximum score = 15.00

Table 3

Mean Texas Social Behavior Inventory Scores

Gender	Status			
	Diffusion	Moratorium	Achieved	Diff.-Morat.
Males	40.47	40.27	42.50	37.82
Females	39.27	37.34	39.48	39.39
Avg.	39.87	38.80	40.99	38.60

Note. Maximum score = 64.00

Table 4

Mean Death Anxiety Scale and Texas Social Behavior
Inventory Scores for Nonanalyzed Statuses

Death Anxiety Scale

Gender	n ^a	Status	n ^a	n ^a
Foreclosure		Diff.-Fore.		Diff.-Fore.-Morat.
Male	7.67 (6)	9.80 (5)		8.50 (10)
Female	7.00 (6)	8.55 (9)		9.71 (7)
Avg.	7.33	9.17		9.10

Texas Social Behavior Inventory

Male	33.66 (6)	34.60 (5)		29.90 (10)
Female	40.17 (6)	42.44 (9)		39.29 (7)
Avg.	36.91	35.02		31.09

^aNumbers in parentheses indicate the number of students who were in each status.